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TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS
AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission (Commission) be extended to October 1, 2005.

BACKGROUND

The Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission was established by Board order pursuant to Chapter 3.32 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Commission's mission is to provide the Board and Department of Health Services' senior department managers with expert advice on health care issues and patient care policies and programs of the Los Angeles County hospital system, including but not limited to:

- Conducting public hearings on significant health care issues and making recommendations on administrative or legislative policies.
- Assessing the need for additional hospital and/or other patient care facilities.
- Conducting periodic visits of County hospitals and comprehensive health centers and providing the Board and senior department managers with an assessment of the problems and issues identified.
- Providing the public with insight and comment on issues affecting their health, the health of the community at large, and the operations of the hospitals and comprehensive health centers.

Total membership of the Commission is fifteen, three nominated by each Supervisor. However, throughout most of the evaluation period, the Commission had three

vacancies. Members receive \$25 per meeting or facility site inspection, not to exceed \$50 in any month.

JUSTIFICATION

The Commission was formed and continues for the purpose of improving the health care delivery system through policy recommendations, health facility site visits, public hearings and public relations. As an advisory board, the Commission consults with and advises the Director of Health Services and the Board on all matters pertinent to patient care policies and programs.

During this review period, the Commission made several significant recommendations to the Board. For example, the Commission developed a list of Ambulatory Care recommendations that has streamlined the patient registration process and also resulted in specialty services such as neurology, dermatology, and eye screening being more accessible to the public. The Commission also recommended that the Board approve funding for the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center's Surgery/Emergency Facility Replacement Project.

In addition, the Commission recommended that Governor Gray Davis sign AB 2547, which would allow the County to proceed with building an 80 bed satellite hospital in the East San Gabriel Valley. The Governor approved the bill and the Commission received a letter of appreciation from Supervisor Molina. Within the past two years, the Commission completed 13 site visits and provided the Board with recommendations to improve the performance and operations of the hospitals and comprehensive health centers.

In the future, the Commission plans to continue recommending policies to the Board to improve the expansion of ambulatory care. The Commission will also lend support to enhance nursing retention and education programs. Furthermore, the Commission plans to participate in a newly formed State organization called the Health Access Campaign to raise public awareness about the health care crisis in California.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:DR:IDC
Attachments

C: Geraldine Tevrizian, R.D.H., Chair, Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission
Thomas A. Garthwaite, M.D., Director of Health Services
Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
COMMISSION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission. **CONCUR**

Section 1. Relevancy. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission continues to consult with and advise the Director of Health Services and the Board on patient care policies and programs within the Los Angeles County hospital system. **RELEVANT**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

Meetings are scheduled once a month, except in August. The Commission held 26 meetings during the last thirty months (July 1, 1999 through December 31, 2001). Average attendance has been seven commissioners per meeting (total membership is 15, but there were three vacancies throughout most of the evaluation period). **SATISFACTORY**

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

The Commission's accomplishments include the following:

- Recommended that Governor Gray Davis sign AB 2547. This legislation enabled the County to proceed with building an 80 bed satellite hospital in the East San Gabriel Valley. As a result, the Commission received a letter of appreciation from Supervisor Molina whose district would benefit from the hospital.
- Developed a list of Ambulatory Care recommendations for the Board, which were based on site visits to various comprehensive health centers, reviews of ambulatory care data and focused discussions. These recommendations have resulted in streamlining the patient registration process and also resulted in specialty services, such as neurology, dermatology, and eye screening being more accessible to the public.

- Recommended that the Board approve funding for the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center's Surgery/Emergency Facility Replacement Project.
- Sponsored a forum on the status of the Public Private Partners with Los Angeles County. The forum included Los Angeles County, Community Clinic Association, Northeast Valley Health Corporation, and QueenCare.

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

In the future, the Commission will continue to recommend policies to the Board on expanding ambulatory care within Los Angeles County. It will also continue its efforts to help integrate the Public Private Partners into an efficient relationship with the County. In addition, the Commission will lend support to enhance programs for nursing retention and education. **RELEVANT**

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commissioners receive \$25 per meeting or facility site inspection, not to exceed two meetings and/or site inspections in any one calendar month. DHS incurs annual costs of approximately \$45,000 associated with Commission activities. These costs include support staff salaries and benefits, commissioner stipends, and parking fees. **WARRANTED**

Section 7. Recommendation:

THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION BE EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 1, 2005.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION
ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Commissioner	Appointed By	9/30/1999	12/31/1999	3/31/2000	6/30/2000	9/30/2000	12/31/2000	3/31/2001	6/30/2001	9/30/2001	12/31/2001	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter		2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	26	
Mr. Roland Palencia	Molina										1	1	33%
Ms. Sylvia D. Ivie	Burke										0	0	0%
Ms. Christine M. Robert	Burke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0%
Phillip M. Smith, M.D.	Burke	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	13	50%
Mr. Dean R. Wetmore	Burke	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	5	19%
Ms. Beth A. Ostheimer	Yaroslavsky	1	2	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	2	16	62%
Lucien Wulsin, Jr., Esq.	Yaroslavsky	2	1	1	3	2	2	3	3	1	2	20	77%
Charles Aronberg, M.D.	Edelman	1	1	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	3	17	65%
Paul Hirsch, M.D.	Knabe	0	3	1	2	1	1	0	3	0	3	14	54%
Marcy L. Zwelling-Aamot, M.D.	Knabe	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	20	77%
Robert C. Myrtle, D.P.A.	Dana	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	2	12	46%
Frederic G. Quevedo, M.D.	Antonovich	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	18	69%
Ara Tavitian, M.D.	Antonovich	2	2	1	3	0	2	2	3	2		17	74%
Dr. Stanley M. Toy, Jr.	Antonovich										0	0	0%
Mrs. Geraldine Tevrizian, R.D.H.	Antonovich	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	25	96%
Totals		12	18	20	23	10	16	15	23	17	24	178	

Average Attendance per Meeting -----> **6.8**